### Amusements Co-Night.

ACADEMY OF DESIGN—Art Loan Exhibition.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—2—Symphony Rehearsal—8—
"L'Elisir d'Amore.

AMERICAN ART GALLERY—Exhibition.

ASSOCIATION HALL—8—Lecture.
BIJOU OFERA HOUSE—8—"Orpheus and Eurydice."

CASINO—8—"The Beggar Student."

DALT'S THEATRE—8.15—"Girls and Boys."

GRAND OFERA HOUSE—8—"Cheek."

HAVERLY'S SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS—8—"The Princess of Madagascar."

GRAND OF THE ATRE—S.—"The Princess of Madagascar."

MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—S:30—"The Raiah"

METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—S.—"Roberto II Diavolo."

NEW PARK THEATRE—S.—"The Strangiers of P aris."

NIBLO'S GARDEN—S.—"Excelsior."

STANDARD THEATRE—S.—"In the Ranks."

STANDARD THEATRE—S.—"Our Boarding House."

THALIA THEATRE—S.—"The Haunted Castle."

THEATRE CONTOUE—2 and S.—"Cordelia's Aspirations."

UNION SOUARE THEATRE—S.—"Storm Beaten."

WALLACK'S THEATRE—S.—"The Road to Ruin."

3D AVENUE THEATRE—S.—"Friend and Foe."

FTH AVENUE THEATRE—S.—"Monte Cristo."

14TH STREET THEATRE—S.—"Fedora."

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#### Business Notices.

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# New Pork Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, DEC. 7. .

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN .- There was an unconfirmed rumor in London that war had broken out in Tonquin. It is believed that England's arbitration between France and China is making progress, \_\_\_\_ Fire has destroyed 600 houses in Constantinople and the legislative palace at Brussels. - Socialists are on trial in London for trying to blow up the German embassy. === The secret ballot at elections has been defeated in the Prussian Reichstag. England and Spain are likely to negotiate a commercial treaty. === Signor Nicotera, formerly a Cabinet Minister in Italy, has been challenged to fight a duel for insulting a Government official.

Congress .- In the Senate yesterday bills were introduced limiting a portion of the Naval Appropriation Act; to establish a United States mint at New-York City ; to forfeit certain public lands granted to the Oregon Central Railroad Company; to repeal the Pre-emption and Timber Culture laws and to amend the Homestead law; to provide for the construction of the Maryland and Delaware free ship canal; to define the jurisdiction of the Circuit and District Courts of the United States. Joint resolutions were offered to amend the Fifteenth Amendment; proposing an amendment to the Constitution giving women the right of suffrage; proposing an amendment to the Constitution giving the President the right to veto separate items of an appropriation bill while approving the remainder. In the House Mr. McCoid, of

DOMESTIC.-Billings, Clapp & Co., wholesale druggists in Boston, have been fined for the adulteration of opium. === Arguments were made in the New-York Court of Appeals in a case involving the constitutionality of the tenementhouse cigar act. \_\_\_\_ Argument was begun in the Dwight insurance case. — The Bessemer Coke Works, at Mount Pleasant, Penn., were sold at auction. = The rolling-mill of the Trenton Iron Company was closed temporarily. - Over 200 persons were carried over the new cantilever bridge at Niagara Falls. == The election case of Horsey, at Columbia, S. C., has been abandoned. Considerable damage has been done by floods in Dallas, Texas. === The New-Jersey Sanitary Association met at Trenton.

CITY AND SUBURBAN .- Alderman Reilly got in a rage at the meeting of the Board of Estimate vesterday. === The Chamber of Commerce urged the State to purchase the Adirondack Wilderness. A meeting in the interest of the Charity Organization Society was held at the Union League Club. == The St. Nicholas Society ate its annual dinner at Delmonico's. == George W. Cable lectured before the Nineteenth Century Club, —— A dentist of Keyport, N. J., was assaulted in the street by the husband of a patient. - President Barnard and Augustus St. Gaudens testified in the Feuardent snit. = A case of smallpox occurred on the Seythia. = Captain Gordon was held for trial in \$5,000 bail. Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (41212 grains), 85.27 cents. = Stocks fluctuated irregularly, were weak after

being strong, and closed unsettled. THE WEATHER.-TRIBUNE local observations indicate clear or fair and warmer weather, possibly followed late in the day by increasing cloudiness and light rains. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 46°; lowest, 38°; ave-rage, 4178°.

The success of the meeting held last evening to arouse interest in the work of the Charity Organization Society of this city will be gratifying to all thinking people who allow themselves the luxury of giving. The hall of the Union League Club was crowded, and the merits of the society's systematic method of benevolence were duly set forth by Mr. Joseph H. Choate, Judge Daly, Mr. George William Curtis and others. The work of this organization should commend itself not only to Christian philanthropists, but especially to those who take a scientific view of almsgiving.

The lawyers of Texas who have undertaken to get the Court of Claims at Washington to pass favorably upon the request of an old slaveholder that he shall be paid for his liberated slaves have probably taken up the case as an amusement. They are said to hold that Texas circumstances from the other States. That is certainly not true in a legal sense; and, anyway, after she was once in her condition was not more independent than that of any other State. The Texan slaveholder's claim will be

paid about the same time with the Confederate

A realization of the necessity of protecting our forests seems to be spreading more widely every day. Yesterday Mr. Morris K. Jesup presented the matter to the Chamber of Commerce of this city, in an effective manner and with good results. Resolutions were adopted urging the importance of protecting the entire Adirondack wilderness. A memorial to be presented to the Legislature will be prepared, and other commercial associations throughout the State are invited to join in pressing the matter upon the attention of our law-makers. The movement for forest protection, not only in New-York, but throughout the Union, has begun not a moment too soon. Great damage has already been done; yet if the destruction can be arrested just where it is, we shall be a fortunate

No little excitement was caused some weeks ago by the discovery of a case of smallpox on the steamship Scythia. Great precaution was taken to isolate the patient, and the Health authorities were so convinced that all danger of contagion had been removed that the steamship was passed at Quarantine with only a trifling delay. Unfortunately the precautions taken do not seem to have been sufficient. A young man who was a passenger on the vessel when the first case was discovered has since been seized by the disease; and yesterday when the Scythia arrived from Liverpool again one of the stewards was sent to Riverside Hospital sick with the smallpox. The vessel was then allowed to come up to her dock. In view of the fact that this is the second case which has broken out on the Scythia, despite all precautions, the action of the Health officer in not detaining her at Quarantine may lead to some alarm.

The Aldermen have taken up the matter of electric wires in the streets, and their Finance Committee has made a vigorous report in favor of an ordinance requiring all wires to be put underground. Judging from past experience it does not seem likely that the Aldermen will finally pass such an ordinance, and, even if they did, it would doubtless only result in endless litigation. The companies have not much more respect for the Aldermen as representatives of public opinion than the average private citizen has. The proper body to take this subject in hand is the Assembly. Even there any extreme measure would probably be defeated. But a law prohibiting any more wires from being strung along on the poles could not be considered unreasonable by any one, and undoubtedly such a law might be passed this winter. After that we could decide what to do with the wires already up.

Senator Lapham, of this State, has already prepared a joint resolution to amend the United States Constitution so that the President can veto items in the appropriation bills without killing the entire measure. The idea seems to find some opposition in the Senate. No doubt it would be a bad thing to tinker very much with the Constitution, and the conservatism of many of the Senators is highly commendable. However, when a change in our fundamental law is actually needed there is no reason to hesitate to make it. The change in question is not based on a wild theory, but is called for by experience. In this State, for instance, the way in which our Governors use the power gives widespread satisfaction. There is no reason to suppose it would not work equally well in Federal administration. The amendment has been asked for by the President in his last two messages, public sentiment has been expressed strongly in its favor; so there really does not seem to be any reason why the Senators should hesitate.

SENATOR MORRILL ON SILVER COINAGE. Senator Morrill's large experience and wellearned reputation in the treatment of financial questions would in any case have secured attention for his strong speech on the silver question But the speech was also remarkably timely. The Chicago Tribunc, one of the most powerful Republican journals of the West, has now de-Chicago Tribune and The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette worked together most efficiently to prepare public opinion for the revival of silver coinage, and the influence of these great journals was for a time the chief obstacle to the suspension now advocated by them both. Judge Kelley, whose opinion on the subject The Chicago Tribune quotes, was convinced during his absence in Europe that the continuance of silver coinage by this country had become the greatest obstacle to the progress of bi-metallic views in Europe, With him, Mr. Burchard, Director of the Mint, Mr. Walker, Mr. Horton and others who were among the foremost in advocating coinage of silver years ago have now earnestly urged a suspension, on the ground that it would strongly promote international agreement on the question. Not a single one of the really influential leaders in the movement for remonetization is now in favor of continuing the purchase of \$2,000,000 of silver bullion each month for the purpose of manufacturing more standard dollars, of which, as Mr. Morrill says, the Treasury now holds three times as many as the people have been induced to take

In connection with the declaration of The Chicago Tribune, therefore, Mr. Morrill's able speech will attract especial attention. He argues that we have no possible need, at present, for as many standard dollars as have already been provided. This reasoning The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette has also presented repeatedly with great force. He urges that the continued coinage of silver by this country operates powerfully to shield Great Britain and Germany from the natural effects of their monometallic policy, and so strengthens them in the stubborn resistance thus far made by them to every plan of international accord. In this position Mr. Morrill agrees with M. Cernuschi and other leaders of bi-metallic thought abroad, and with Messrs. Burchard, Horton and Walker of this country. At length, therefore, there is entire accord between the thoughtful and competent men of both opinions, in respect to the present duty of the United States. For reasons in some measure unlike, the bi-metallist and the mono-metallist alike urge that this country should no longer continue to put into useless standard dollars \$2,000,000 each month of its revenue. The bill offered by Mr. Kelley in the House, though coming from one who was formerly a leading advocate of the double standard, does not differ in principle from the measure which Mr. Morrill advocates in the Senate.

Senator Morrill does not propose to deprive the outstanding silver certificates of any part of their present usefulness. He would leave these certificates to the operation of natural laws of supply and demand. The suspension of silver coinage would properly be supplemented by a discontinuance of the issue of certificates, leavcame into the Union in 1845 under different of the aim of the Senator, moreover, to bring

positions and others in the speech of Mr. Morrill will be considered more fully in connection with the discussion to which his bill will doubtless lead. But the main purpose of the speech -to bring about a suspension of the coinage of silver dollars and of the issue of silver certificates-should be heartily approved by intelligent advocates of either the double or of the single standard. It is enough that we have more standard dollars coined already than can be used, under either theory or any legislation, for some years to come.

UNWORTHY OF MR. MORRISON. President Arthur has refused to help either faction of Democrats by his Message. He has not recommended reduction of the internal taxes according to the notions of Mr. Randall, nor reduction of the tariff according to Mr. Carlisle's ideas. But Colonel Morrison has no right to say that the President refrained from either recommendation for partisan reasons. It is absurd for him to call the Message "mean-spirited or cowardly " because it did not precisely gratify the faction of which Mr. Morrison is a leader. His own motives are at least as open to suspicion or criticism in this matter as those of the President, whose course will be approved by intelligent and conservative men in every branch of business and of every shade of party. Indeed, any public man who does advise another overhauling of the tariff this winter, before the country has half recovered from the prolonged uncertainty and embarrassment which the last revision caused, justifies grave doubt either as to his patriotism or as, to his capacity for public trust. For more than five months, every branch of trade and industry was embarrassed by the discussion and the wavering action in the two houses of Congress. Then, after the new bill had been passed, there was stagnation for nearly four months more because the most important changes of duty did not take effect until July 1. And from July 1 onward, the varying course of importations has been watched with deep interest, especially by the employers and working people in some branches of industry, because the very existence of many manufacturing establishments in this country has depended upon effects of the new tariff which could not be altogether determined as yet. Thus business has been sorely disturbed for more than a year by a revision of the tariff, and however great the benefits expected from that revision, it is certain that it has cost the country a great deal. What possible reason can be given for renewing the agitation and uncer-

tainty now? The faction of which Colonel Morrison is a leader will plead that the surplus revenue is undesirably large. This is true, if that surplus s to be applied to the extinguishment of public debt, because it retires too rapidly the bonds on which the bank circulation rests. But Mr. Carlisle and his followers can hardly give that reason. They have not shown such comprehension of the National banking system, or such friendliness toward it, that they can be expected, for the sake of saving that system, to subject all the industry of the country to disorder and loss. What other reason can be given? It is said that the taxation is too heavy. But the truth is that the people do not feel the taxation by the United States at all; and the State, county and local taxes, which they do feel, it is the policy of Mr. Carlisle and his friends not to relieve by any act of the Federal Govern ment. The sacred doctrine of State rights might come to grief, if the burdens imposed by "local self-government" should in any such way be lightened.

It is the truth, moreover, as the President suggests, that there are important public needs to which the whole of the surplus revenue for the current or coming year can be well applied. The defence of our coasts, and especially of the great seaport cities, ought to be no longer delayed. There could be no greater folly than to repeal taxes which the people do not feel before making provision for the public defence. Again, it is of great importance to our manu factures and agriculture that the foreign commerce of the country should be aided by steamship lines to foreign ports. As long as the mails, even on official business, go under for eign flags, and our merchants are dependent upon foreign ships for communication with any customers they may have abroad, it is altogether too early to talk of cutting down the revenue as an object of supreme importance, Something ought to be done, too, whether by the mode suggested by Mr. Blaine or some other, to promote more efficiently the free education of the people. The very existence of our Republic, all admit, depends upon the maintenance of education, and yet the recent census discloses a lamentable prevalence of illiteracy and lack of educational facilities in some parts of the country. Will Colonel Morrison maintain that all aid to popular education should be refused in order that taxation may be immediately reduced again ? At least, if he is ready to take that position, he ought to be able to realize that the President and his Republican advisers and supporters, in urging a different course, may be quite as sincere, and quite as free from personal ambition or partisan bias, as Mr. Carlisle or Mr. Morrison or any of their followers.

### THE WHISKEY TAX. The question raised by Mr. Blaine in regard

to the distribution of the amount derived from the whiskey tax belongs to the future. So long as the whiskey tax is needed by the National Government the question of its transfer is not practically before the people. It is only when the question of its repeal is reached that the issue raised by Mr. Blaine comes to the front. Indeed, this appears by the text of his letter to be his own understanding. He fixes the time at that point when we can no longer apply the surplus to the payment of the National Debt and have no use for the tax in the National Treasury. "Why should not the States," Mr. Blaine asks, "be permitted to have the tax on spirits for their own benefit if the National Government does not need it ?" The question then is not between the National and State Governments as to which shall have the whiskey tax-but between giving the tax to the States or renealing it altogether. On that point there will be a great deal to be said when it is reached. Mr. Blaine feels sure that it would be great folly to take eighty-six millions a year off whiskey and keep it on homesteads and farms. Meanwhile before leaving the subject it may be well to offer a word upon one or two points of objection urged against the principle of distribution. Certain Western papers make loud complaint that the proposition involves the taxing of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, where the whiskey is principally distilled, for the benefit of other States. In other words, they maintain that the distillers pay the tax. We suppose by parity of reasoning these same Western journals will admit that the importers of New-York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore pay the bulk of the two hundred millions of customs-one

much of the whiskey tax as the four distilling States put together. In the use of whiskey as a beverage the Western States may keep even with us, per capita, but New-York certainly does her full share in that respect.

Another point of objection to the distribution of the whiskey tax refers to its constitutionality. We are amazed at the number of men, especially on the press, who are profound jurists and who know the precise limits and powers of the organic law. We have not failed to observe, however, that these learned pundits are generally surprised when informed that Congress has already exercised the power which is so loudly pronounced unconstitutional. Every argument now brought against the distribution of the whiskey tax was far more ably stated against the distribution of the surplus revenue in Jack son's time and the distribution of the proceeds from the sale of public lands under the Presidency of John Tyler. But against these objections both bills were passed by Congress and approved by the Executives named. There is not a constitutional point in the case of the whiskey tax that was not involved in one or the other of the former distribution bills. One or both of these measures were supported by Mr. Webster, Mr. Clay, John Quincy Adams, Millard Fillmore, Thomas Ewing, George Evans, Rufus Choate, John Sergeant, John M. Clayton, William Pitt Fessenden, Robert C. Winthrop and many others of the most learned and able in Congress from 1830 to 1842. The Democratic objectors may be pertinently reminded that President Jackson in his first Message to Congress recommended that the surplus revenue arising from du ties on imports " be apportioned among the States according to their ratio of representation." He renewed the recommendation in his second Message, and took occasion to answer the objection now made that it would lower the dignity of the States to receive revenue from the National Treasury. With his strong common-sense Jackson de clared that "there could surely be nothing de rogatory in the State's receiving its quota of the National revenue for domestic use, upon a "fixed principle, as a matter of right and from a "fund to the creation of which each State had "contributed its fair proportion." We leave the constitutional objectors to wrestle with that comprehensive declaration of Jackson.

Local taxation in the United States is very heavy. In many cases it is positively oppressive. New-York is more heavily taxed than London: Philadelphia is more heavily taxed than Paris: Boston is more heavily taxed than Berlin. It is difficult to find a town in the Northern States in which the total of local taxes (by which we mean State, county, municipal and school taxes) is not equal to eight dollars per head of the total population, men, women and children. Some are lower. Many are higher. In this city the rate is over theenty dollars per head. Perhaps there is no city in the Union with a population exceeding fifty thousand where the taxes do not equal or exceed ten dollars per head. Throughout the Union the total of all taxes paid-distinct from National taxes-will be found to equal, if not exceed, four hundred millions of dollars. To relieve this burden, it is Mr. Blaine's idea that the whiskey tax can be profitably used when the National Government shall no longer have need of it. It would, perhaps, in the aggregate, take off from the people one quarter of their heavy burden of taxation. In some States it would lift and discharge oppressive debts; in others it would make needed public improvements; in all it would enhance the educational facilities of the people. When we think of the myriads of voters in the Republic who cannot read the names on the ballots they place in the box, it quickens us to lay hold of every resource that may extend and improve our system of schools.

The whiskey tax may, in the end, be one of the great instrumentalities to work out valuable results. If one State has it, all must have it. The distilling States cannot unitedly collect a half-million of dollars from the source that yields nearly a hundred millions to the touch of National power. And National power cannot be used except for the common good of all. There will be ample opportunity to discuss the quesaspects and all its bearings There is no need of premature committal or aggressive partisanship in regard to it. We are as willing to receive light as to give light, and shall in the end determine our course by the weight of testimony and the strength of the argument. At present we are willing to say that it is an important and far-reaching issue and may deeply affect many interests in the future.

# FUTURE OF THE FREEDMEN.

Mr. Frederick Douglass always speaks with a one of authority about the freedmen. He contributes to Harper's Weekly an interesting paper on the progress of the race since Emancipation, his views being as encouraging as those expressed by Mr. Beecher in his Thanksgiving sermon as the results of personal experience in the Southern States. Mr. Douglass contends that though they are still deplorably ignorant, the large number of colored children attending school shows that progress has been made. With respect to morality he speaks in a lower tone, but thinks there is everywhere among them a dawning recognition of a new order of life and society. The old camp-meeting emotional religion is subsiding and thought is taking the place of feeling. Public morals and manners, he thinks, have gained by the change, and the effect of a better kind of preaching than was ever heard in the old days is to supply something besides rant and to minister to something besides passion. On the whole, the old man is far from discouraged or dissatisfied. In his judgment the colored people are steadily rising.

Mr. Douglass glances also at the former slaveholders. Have they made any sensible degree of progress in civilization since Emancipation ? Are they more industrious, honest and humane since they ceased to buy, sell and flog their slaves? He considers such events as Yazoo, Hamburg and the slaughter at Danville of ominous import, and contends that the enfranchised bondmen can make little progress without consent and co-operation of the ruling class among whom they live, and whose land they cultivate.

CIRCUMSTANCES ALTER CASES. In discussing the relations between the railroads and the public the President observes: While we cannot fail to recognize the importance of the vast railway systems of the coun-

try and their great and beneficent influences upon the development of our material wealth, we should, on the other hand, remember that no "individual and no corporation ought to be invested with absolute power over the interests of any other citizens or class of citizens." No doubt most people will at once coincide with this remark, and will say that it is sound common-sense. Yet, though its truth and wisdom are so apparent, it is perhaps worth while to

one, and though it has not yet been extended, it is quite impossible for any one to say confidently that it never will be. Under that principle it is the right (and it may at any time be assumed to be the duty) of the Legislature to regulate any business or occupation which may at the time seem to any influential person, either of the legislative body or of the dominant party, to need such regulation. And as there is no conceivable business into which a public use of some kind does not enter, it follows that there is no conceivable business or occupation which may not some day become the subject of legislative regulation. The common answer to all such expressions of apprehension is that the courts and public opinion may be trusted to stop short of mischievous interference with vested rights. But in the first place it is the opinion of many that such interference has already occurred. And in the second place experience proves that the admission of such dangerous doctrines by the Supreme Court entails a tendency upon that tribunal to proceed further in

the same direction. The sentiment enunciated by the President is sound and just one; but if corporations or citizens should not be permitted to exercise absolute power over other citizens, or classes of citizens, it is equally clear that the legislative department of the Government, representing as it often does only a minority of a majority, and sometimes only a majority of a minority, should be restrained from the exercise of a like absolute power over individuals or classes. While the doctrine of the Chicago elevator cases is maintained, however, there can be no assurance against legislative tyranny of the kind referred to, and it is obvious that this may, under the pressure of popular excitement, or the exigencies of partisan politics, at any time become quite as serious an evil as those acts of corporate aggression against which the public protest, and from which they seek protection.

UNEXPENDED BALANCES AGAIN. Alderman John Reilly evidently thinks that he is a bigger man than John Kelly, or any other member of his particular Democratic organization. A reference in THE TRIBUNE to a prominent Tammany Hall politician" was applied at once by Mr. Reilly to himself, and led to his making yesterday a lively exhibition of his unfitness to discharge the duties of a member of the Board of Estimate. It is only a few days since he was charging "crookedness" in the official canvass of the votes cast at the recent election, because he was nearly defeated for Register by his Republican opponent. Mr. Reilly's friends would do well to keep a close watch on his movements.

Aside from the personal incident, the pro ceedings of the Board of Estimate yesterday were humiliating to the city. The Mayor con fessed that he could not administer the municipal government on business principles. He has tried, he says, and failed. He admits his inability to do the work under existing laws. The Legislature should take him at his word, and try

in a measure to relieve him of the responsibility. In regard to the question of making transfers from unexpended balances of appropriations of previous years, which gave rise to the discussion vesterday. The Tribune has already colightened the public. Mr. Asten deserves the commendation of every citizen for the firm stand be has taken in opposition to this pernicious practice. As long as he guards the doors of the City Treasury from the assaults of Alderman Reilly and his friends, Mr. Asten may be certain of public approval. In equity his position is impregnable. Already this year about half a millon dollars in alleged unexpended balances have been transferred to the use of department heads. The practice has been carried so far for the benefit of Commissioner Thompson that he actually had transferred, among other items, a balance of seventy-eight cents remaining over from an appropriation made six years ago for public drinking hydrants."

Every cent of the money "transferred" has to be raised by the issue of interest-bearing bonds. What is the purpose of the law requiring departments to make out estimates, and the Board of Apportionment to make appropriations in advance of the year in which the money is to be expended? Clearly, if this subterfuge of making "transfers" is legal, the law in regard to estimates and appropriations is a dead letter.

DON'T KNOW WHAT TO PUT ON HIS CARDS. It is not generally known that yesterday, after reading the able but conflicting statements contained in leading Democratic newspapers concerning his position on the tariff question, Speaker Carlisle walked around to a Washington stationer's to order himself some visiting cards

A large and varied assortment of sample cards was promptly spread before him, and of course he found no difficulty in deciding upon size and script. But when the gentlemanly clerk who had the hon of waiting upon him inquired what he wished engraved upon the cards, perspiration broke out upon the Speaker's brow, and before assistance could be ummoned he sank into a very dark brown study. Rallying in the course of the afternoon, he rebuked the clerk for asking him so embarrassing a question. The clerk was profuse in his apologies, but said that it was customary. After a time Speaker became mollified, and proceeded to order three different sets of cards, explaining to the reassured clerk that he hadn't quite made up his mind which kind he would use-that he would like to consult the Democratic National Committee before reaching a conclusion. The cards have since been prepared, and now lie at the stationer's awaiting the Speaker's decision. They read thus:

MR. JOHN GRIFFIN CARLISLE, Free Trader, with Incidental Protection. MIL JOHN GRIFFIN CARLIBLE, Protectionist, with Incidental Free Trade.

MR. JOHN GRIFFIN CARLISLE, Turiff Reformer, with Incidental Facing both-ways. Our latest advices indicate that the Democratic National Committee has not yet decided the delicate point. The stationer advises Mr. Carlisle to bunch 'em."

It appears from the statements of Police Justice Murray that he resigned from the police force in 1863 to go into the coke business. He was then setting a good example which the public would be glad to see him follow in 1883.

It is understood that a gloom that can be distinctly felt, that in fact is distinctly and painfully felt, begins to settle down upon the Democratic majority in Congress. How can it be otherwise when the members realize that the day is not far distant when they will be compelled to break the agonizing news to their respective heelers that there are not offices enough in the House to go

HINDSIGHT. FORESIGHT. This is what The Sun This is what The Sun said before Carlisle was says now that Carlisle is made speaker : Speaker: "The Republican party

"Our friend of Courier-Journal declares himself fully prepared for defeat [in 1884] and probably he will not be disappointed."

A Missouri jury has just settled a question concerning which science has been unable to reach a circulation which they now occupy. It is part of the aim of the Senator, moreover, to bring about a readjustment of coinage, so that the value with the official stamp, and to promote an increased use of \$1 and \$2 United States notes. These

wind. Many experts were called on both sides. The late Professor Tice appeared in support of the plaintiff's theory, and the defendant was backed by other professors. The jury was called upon to decide a question which the scientists could not agree upon, and it did its duty with a thoroughly Missourian promptness and equanimity. It de-clared that cyclones are caused by wind alone, and that therefore the plaintiff must be nonsuited. Henceforth it is to be hoped that this decision will be respected, and that the champions of the electrical theory will "hide their diminished heads." And what a comfort it would be if many other scientific problems could be solved in the same simple, easy way. There is the question of the constitution of the sun, and the question of the undulatory theory of light, and the question of radiant matter, and lots more, all of which could be set at rest forever if only the scientists would agree to submit them to twelve mea in a box." Truly the world moves.

Freeman, the Pocasset fanatic who killed his own child while under the delusion that God required the sacrifice of him, has been acquitted of the charge of murder, on the ground of insanity, and the Court has sentenced him to pass the remainder of his life in an insane asylum. This sentence seems to unply a belief on the part of the Court that insanity is incurable. Should Freeman recover his sanity the question might very easily be raised, whether there existed any authority for detaining him in an insane asylum. Probably he could not under such circumstances, be so detained. Yet this disposition of him is, we think, the only rational one attainable. The pre-sumption must be that he is still insane, and having been acquitted of murder on that ground, it is necessary to prevent him from doing any more mischief. If all murderers who put in the plea of insanity knew that acquittal on that ground would consign them to an asylum for life, they might rather prefer to take greater chances of the gallows. Yet there can be no reasonable doubt that this ought to be the rule, and not the exception. Murderers who claim that they are not responsible for their actions ought to be locked up with the irresponsible, and kept there, if possible, for the rest of their lives. To liberate such men is necessarily to make a farce of the administration of justice.

#### PERSONAL.

It is related in English journals that during a recent visit to Europe Mr. William Little, of Montreal, found himself on an excursion with the Scottish Arboricultural Society. Some cones from a tall Ficea nobilis were desired, but no one would tail rices noons were desired, our hard selection of the "sturdy band of stalwart Scotch and English foresters," Mr. Little "flung off his hat and coat, and with the nimbleness of a squirrel in a few minutes brought down some cones."

"The row of houses on Connecticut-ave." says The Washington Star, "between K and L streets, built by ex-Governor Shepherd, is familiarly known as Diplomatic Row. At the corner, in the former residence of the Chinese Legation, now resides M. de Struve, the Russian Minister; next is the house occupied by Marshal McMichael, next door to which are the apartments for bachelor members of the Diplomatic Corps. Adjoining this house lives M. de Bille, the Danish Minister, formerly Councillor and a prominent political character in Denmark. "Count and Countess Lewenhaupt, of the Swedish Legation, come next in the list, while between this and the corner house, in which resides Attorney-General Brewster and family, is that recently purchased and occupied by General Joe Johnston."

To accuse a real live prince of being, in even the slightest degree, "pernickety," is a serious matter. And yet, what are you to make of this? Prince Albert Victor the other day went home, from Cambridge to London. He was unattended, and he bought a single ticket and took his seat like any ordinary traveller. He was at first the only passenger in that compartment. But when the train stopped at Royston two other gentlemen got in, and one of them remained there until the train reached London, while the other, having a cold and finding the windows open, sought a seat in another compartwindows open, sought a seat in another compartment. Neither of them had any idea that their fellow-traveller was the Prince, and they were both gentlemen of irreproachable presence. But when his Royal Highness reached King's Cross Station he complained to the authorities of the "intrusion" of strangers into "his carriage," and the stationmaster at Royston was severely censured in consequence, although neither he nor the Cambridge master, nor indeed any one connected with the train, knew that the Prince was a passenger.

CHICAGO, Dec. 6 .- Tolman Wheeler, of this city, who has already made a number of bequests to the Episcopal Church, has deeded the church a valuable tract of land in the western division of the city, and advanced \$200,000 toward the erection of a church preparatory school. The design is to be after that of Oxford, prominent features of the structure being a chapet and a library to contain 10,000 volumes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Adjutant General Dale of Massachusetts, arrived in Washington yesterday afternoon, and last evening presented to Representative Robinson, the Governor-elect of that State, the certificate of his election. It is understood that Governor Robinson will retain his seat in the House until the time for his inauguration, January 3.

GALVESTON, Dec. 6 .- A dispatch from Austin to The News says Professor Mallet, president of the Faculty of the Texas University, has accepted a chair in the University of Virginia, and will not remain in the Texas institution any longer than is necessary to complete its new laboratory.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.-Secretary Folger is slightly indisposed to-day and Assistant Secretary French is acting So-actary of the Treasury.

# GENERAL NOTES.

The owner of the farm at Lindenville, O., pon which John Brown established an arsenal prepara ory to his raid at Harper's Perry, is still living. His name is E. A. Forbes, and he is a man of superior intelligence, highly esteemed by his neighbors. He retains a vivid recollection of Old Ossawatomic and of the circum-stances under which the arms and ammunition were re-ceived and stored.

At a social gathering of fashionable darkies Memphis the other evening Mr. John Grady was fortunate enough to have eleven dollars in his pocket, and though his nickname is " Luck," unlucky enough to lose the same through a hole in said pocket. There was no doubt that the money had fallen to the floor, and the question was which of the guests had appropriated it. question was which of the guests had appropriated it. By unanimous consent of the company it was decided to solve this perplexing problem by means of the infallible "sliter test," and accordingly a sifter was brought from the kitchen. To it was attached a string which was held in turn by the guests. The sliter remained morionless until the string was grasped by Oscar Jones, when it began to revolve with great rapidity. Thereupon Mr. Jones was vociferously declared to be the thief and Mr. Grady promptly caused his arrest. Justice Quigley, who could not have been fully aware of the salemn ceremoniat by which his guilt had been established, dismissed the suit.

For several years the General Post Office in London has sent copies of a handsome Christmas card to all the principal post offices in the world, from many of which it receives in exchange a similar greeting. In whatever manuer this kindly custom began it has now become one of the pleasant features of the season in postal circles; and some of the most elaborate cards hall from the remotest points. "A poet at Hong Kong," says The London Telegraph, "distinguishes himself with a Post Office Sonnet,' which is quite excellent and interesting in point of theme and workmanship. When Fiji esting in point of theme and workmansh, when the irst received the London card, it grew quite rapturous, and sent back a long and eloquent letter of thanks, together with the postmaster's photograph. Next year it outdid taself by forwarding a water-color drawing of Fijian scenery. Several other postal stations have sent water-color or pen-and-ink drawings of varying degrees of originality. The London officials, however, take care to maintain their superiority in the matter of art."

The Rev. William C. Winslow, of Boston, has written an interesting letter to The Churchman of this city about the work of the Egyptian Exploration Fund Society of England. Last winter this society engaged in an important undertaking in the Delta, under the direction of M. Naville, the eminent Egyptologist—namely, the excava-tion of the Biblical city of Pithom, built by the Hebrows during their servitude. This city has been identified by the excavations as the "store city" built for Pharach during the oppression, and also as the city which is re-ferred to as Succoth in the Bible. Interesting hieroglyphics and sun-dried bricks were found, some with, others without, straw. .The society proposes during the present winter, if funds are forthcoming, to San, the Zoan of the Bible, and the Tanis of the